

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION EA-09

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AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS CANBERRA 5211

BANGKOK FOR FADPC: USDA FOR FAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, AS

SUBJECT: LOCAL COMPENSATION PLAN - AUSTRALIA

1. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) FOR JUNE QUARTER INCREASED BY 2.5 PER CENT. IN TERMS OF THE AVERAGE AWARD WAGE IN AUSTRALIA, WHICH THE FULL BENCH OF THE CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION COMMISSION USED AS THE PLATEAU FIGURE IN ITS LAST NATIONAL WAGE HEARING IN MAY THE QUARTERLY RISE IS EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT A\$3.20 ACROSS-THE-BOARD PER WEEK.

2. GOA, AS PART OF ITS WAGE POLICY, IS EXPECTED TO LEGISLATE TO HAVE THE ARBITRATION COMMISSION CONSIDER ECONOMIC CONDITIONS BEFORE PASSING ON CPI INCREASES. HOWEVER THIS LEGISLATION WILL NOT BE CARRIED PRIOR TO THE AUGUST BUDGET SESSION, AND THE ARBITRATION COMMISSION WILL BE ABLE TO GRANT THE 2.5 PER CENT INCREASE IN SALARIES IF THEY FIND THE GOA'S ECONOMIC ARGUMENTS UNCONVINCING. THE COMMISSION WILL BEGIN ITS NATIONAL WAGE INDEXATION QUARTERLY HEARING IN AUGUST, (JUNE QUARTER).

3. PREDICTIONS ARE THAT THE SEPTEMBER QUARTER CPI INCREASE WILL BE LOW, WITH A BIG LIFT IN DECEMBER QUARTER (THE UNCLASSIFIED

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MEDIBANK LEVY TO BE IMPOSED AS OF 10/1/76 IS EXPECTED TO

LIFT THE CPI BY 1.5 PERCENT TO 2 PERCENT).

4. THE EMBASSY WILL ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT OF THE
ARBITRATION COMMISSION'S DECISION WHEN IT IS HANDED
DOWN.

PERCIVAL

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